

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 8, 2004. Claims 53 and 55-59 are pending in this application. Claims 53 and 59 have been amended to define still more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claim 53 is in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action rejected Claims 53 and 55-59 under "the judicially created doctrine of double patenting" over Claims 1-46 in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,200 (Ogura), and provisionally rejected on the same ground Claims 1-46 in view of co-pending U.S. Application No. 09/342,255 (divisional application of Application No. 08/617,634, now (Ogura)). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 53, as amended, is directed to the whole shape of a light conductive member included in an illuminating device of the present invention (e.g., Figs. 4A-6B). In particular, an aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 53 is that the light conductive member includes a rod-shaped member and is formed so as to have a first face that is a longitudinal face of the rod-shaped member and includes a light entrance face onto which the light is incident (e.g., 3), and a second face which is a longitudinal face opposite to the first face and includes a first area (e.g., 6) which is approximately parallel to the first face, and a second area which is inclined so that a distance between the first face and the second face becomes shorter along the longitudinal direction, wherein the light entrance face is under the second area of the second face.

The features of the light conductive member of the present invention as recited in amended Claim 53 are patentably distinct from Claims 1-46 of Ogura, and for this reason, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

The other rejected claims in this application depend from Claim 53 discussed above, and, therefore, are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and the allowance of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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